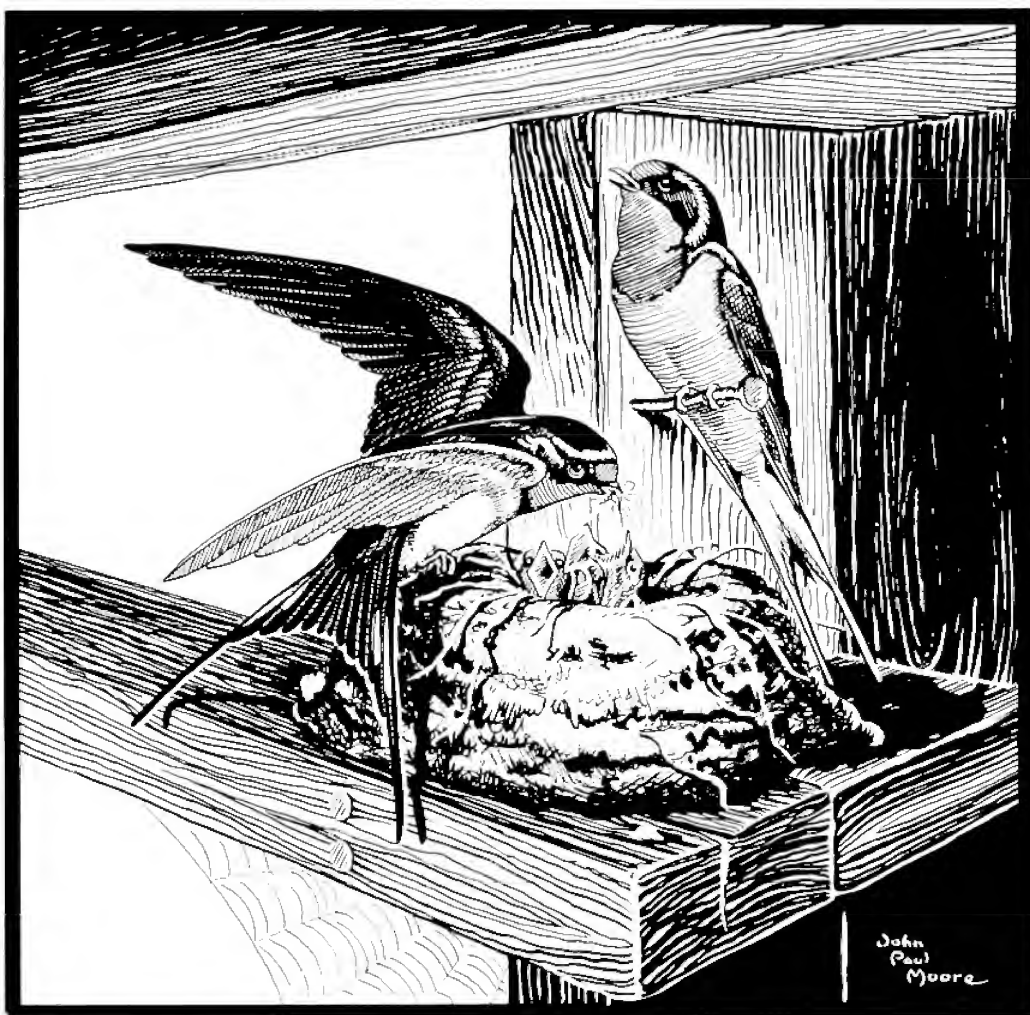


# IOWA Bird Life



Vol. XXXIV No. 2

June 1964

Published by the  
IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

## FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION AT DECORAH

DR. MYRLE BURK

R.R. #2  
WATERLOO, IOWA

The Iowa Ornithologists Union held its 42nd annual convention May 15-17, 1964, at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, guests of the Northeast Iowa Audubon Society. Dr. George E. Knudson, chairman of arrangements, graciously welcomed the early comers at a casual get-together Friday evening. Unsuspecting members were unexpectedly asked to introduce themselves and account for their activities in birding.

R. W. Daubendiek, who purchased the Sherman Swift Tower, designed and built by Dr. Althea Sherman at her home in National, Iowa, and moved it to a park near Harper's Ferry, reviewed briefly the activities of this remarkable woman. She was not only an ornithologist, but also an artist and writer who contributed to the literature of birds west of the Mississippi. Her home became a gathering place for well known students of bird life. Following her death, the estate was sold, the house was razed, and the same fate awaited the Swift Tower. It was saved by the timely intervention of Mr. Daubendiek; this commendable action saved for us this historic building where Dr. Sherman studied the life history of the Chimney Swift, and also used as a study and office. The building had fallen into disrepair and still requires work and money to restore it to its original condition.

Darwin Koenig, chairman of field trips, described the attractive birding areas: Silver Springs, Twin Springs, the Palisades, Cardinal Marsh, Weisens Farm and others. Bird hikes were held Saturday and Sunday mornings; R. W. Daubendiek, Roy Schultz, Darwin Koenig, Mrs. Alden Bauder, Mrs. Burt Henning, and Mrs. G. W. Heuser were leaders. Other points of interest were the Ice Cave, a recently discovered Woodland Indian cave, fossils areas and Chimney Rock. For more adventurous souls, canoe trips were arranged. A heavy rain fell during the night; the water of the river was deeper, more rapid, and muddy. Adventure for some was salted with a dunking (see picture). Fog, mist, and clouds early both Saturday and Sunday morning interfered with clear observation. In spite of this 134 species were recorded for Sunday morning, 11 additional species were seen Saturday morning. Mist netting was carried on Saturday and Sunday by George Crane, Peter Petersen Jr., and Homer Rinehart with 170 birds of 32 species banded. Registration at the College Union began at 9:30 on May 6. During this time members looked at the fine display of books brought by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pierce. This is always one of the finest features of the convention. Dr. E. D. Farwell, President of Luther College, welcomed the members of the organization to the college and to Decorah. Dean M. Roosa, president of I.O.U., responded.

The first paper, "Bird Life of the Upper Mississippi Refuge" by Kenneth Krumm, Winona, Minnesota, with slides, depicted an interesting survey of the bird life of the Mississippi River Refuge. This is the longest federal refuge of continental United States. It extends from Pepin, Minnesota, to Davenport, Iowa, marked by the National Wildlife Refuge sign; 55,000 acres of Iowa land are in this area. Winter residents, summer residents and migrating birds representing forty-nine families have been seen. More than 270 species occur.

A catalog of species includes four species of grebes, the White Pelican seen infrequently; cormorants were once abundant, more than a million reported on the LaCrosse River a number of years ago. Nine species of Heron; the White-faced Ibis has not been seen recently and the Glossy Ibis is rare.

The area is in the traditional path of migrating geese and ducks and of the Whistling Swan. There are thirty-one species of water fowl, twenty species of which are ducks. The Canada Goose is common; since the migration fly-way is farther west, only small flocks of Blue and Snow Geese are seen. The Mississippi bottom is the nesting ground of the Wood Duck; the American Widgeon is very common; Canvasbacks are in small flocks and Ring-necked Ducks are abundant.

The two Vultures, the Turkey and the Black, fourteen species of hawks, the Bald Eagle, and rarely the Golden Eagle, occur.

The Virginia Rail is common and Coots are abundant. Sandhill Cranes are rarely seen, a Whooping Crane stopped on the river in 1958. Twenty-eight species of shorebirds migrate through or nest here.

Of the well known species of passerines, there are 30 species of warblers and 18 species of sparrows. The list of birds cited by Mr. Krumm offers an invitation for good birding. More complete information may be obtained from the Refuge Manager, Upper Mississippi Refuge, Fish and Wildlife Service, Winona, Minnesota, 55987.

Roy Schultz, farmer from Castalia but guide, hunter, and wildlife photographer in Alaska showed films of his fascinating experiences in Alaska. This showed the building of a hunting cabin in the far north, beginning with the standing timber. He showed the homely, stately Moose, the thieving Parka Squirrel and their predator, the Wolverine, the herds of Caribou, and the hunting by plane of the vanishing Polar Bear. He showed the beauty and relentless might of the great glaciers and in summer their disintegration, the breaking off of huge masses of ice at the water's edge. The flowers that bloomed quickly during the short Northern summer gave no hint that few inches below the surface lies a perpetual freezer.

The Convention adjourned for luncheon.

The afternoon meeting began with a discussion of the troubles of bird banding and how they may be overcome. Charles and Darleen Ayres, Otumwa, hindered afternoon snoozes with their descriptions of methods of overcoming the problems of bird banders. His first advice was that the bander get an assistant; as an example, he mentioned Pete who last summer acquired an assistant; since then his banding counts have soared. Second, if allergic to mosquitoes use a face mask, which may be an adaption of a bee-keepers mask. For a tranquilizer to quiet biting birds, a mallet is valuable. To accelerate banding when toward evening a flurry of birds are caught, use a double pliers. If the net is too low, balloons may be used to raise it. Finally, if identification of a specimen is the unsolvable problem, the best solution is the use of an Ouija Board; lay the bird on the board, cover with the hands and lo! the name of the bird will be spelled. If young and inexperienced banders have difficulties, Mr. and Mrs. Ayres will be happy to share their wisdom, gleaned from long and successful experience.

Shirley A. Briggs, Washington, D.C., Editor of the *Atlantic Naturalist*, but always an Iowan, described her unusual trip to Europe. When the International Ornithological Congress was held in Ithaca, New York, the European visitors were entertained in the home of Americans. So pleased were they with this hospitality that they in turn invited their hosts to visit them in their homes when traveling in Europe. Shirley Briggs was one who accepted the invitation and had a most enjoyable and enlightening trip, visiting ornithologists, research centers and nature preserves. One of the most intriguing projects was the effort to create and maintain a natural area. She visited Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Scotland, England, portraying her experience to us by means of slides.

The banquet was served in the College Union. Adding to the air of

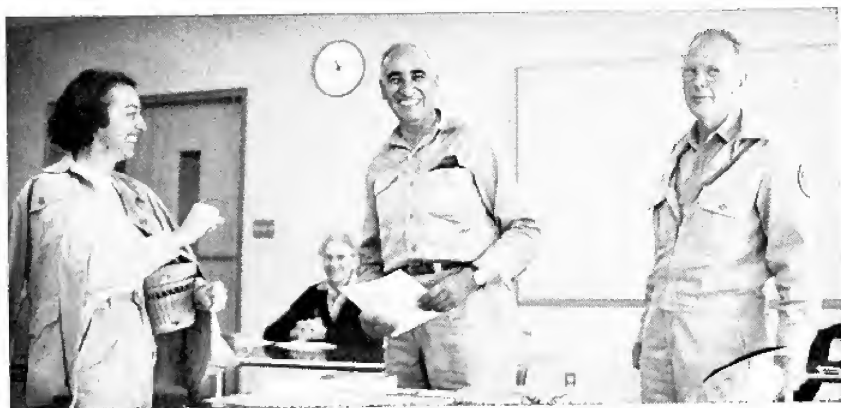


VIEWS AT THE DECORAH CONVENTION.

TOP—FIELD TRIP ON UPPER IOWA RIVER.

MIDDLE—NICHOLSON AND DELOSS IN CANOE

BOTTOM—PRATTS AND PARTRIDGE AFTER UPSET



TOP—MRS. VANE, MISS COPP, BERKOWITZ AND BROWN.

MIDDLE—STANDING ARE NICHOLSON, PETERSEN, ROOSA  
AND KNUDSON.

BOTTOM—NEW PRESIDENT VANE WITH FAMILY AND MISS BRIGGS.

hospitality was the delightful courtesy and consideration of the student waitresses. The members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union thanks them and Dr. George E. Knudson for again extending to us this graciousness for which Luther College has been and is remembered. (It was regrettable that the ham, through no fault of the college, caused so many to become ill. ed.).

After the dinner Dean Roosa welcomed and introduced Mrs. Cleveland P. Grant, Mineral Point, Wisconsin. The film "Bird Watchers Holiday" was of the high quality of all Cleveland Grant pictures and was enjoyed by all.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

At 3:30 P.M., May 16, members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union assembled for the business meeting of the convention. Dean Roosa, President, called the meeting to order.

He appointed the following members to the Nomination Committee: Myrle L. Jones, Albert C. Berkowitz and Mrs. Helen Barrett. To the Resolutions Committee he appointed Dr. Robert Vane, Dorothy Brunner and John Osness.

Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Editor of *Iowa Bird Life* reported that more members, including junior members, should report their observations of birds in Iowa for publication in *Iowa Bird Life*. He also noted that John Paul Moore designed and contributed the cover for *Iowa Bird Life* for 1964.

Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Librarian, suggested that more recognition might be given the local societies affiliated with the I.O.U. As an example, he suggested that recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Waterloo Audubon Society.

The Secretary-treasurer presented the following report:

##### Membership report:

Regular members .....	331
Honorary members .....	8
Contributing members .....	3
Supporting members .....	33
Juniors .....	19
Libraries .....	23
Public libraries of Iowa .....	10
Societies .....	6
New members .....	33
Unpaid .....	46

##### Financial Report

Balance in bank, May 8, 1964 .....	\$ 1038.11
Checks deposited May 8, 1964 .....	14.00
Checks on hand .....	14.00
Currency on hand .....	2.48
Total .....	\$ 1068.59
Checks written since May 8, 1964 .....	266.00
Balance .....	\$ 802.59

##### Sources of Income

Membership .....	\$ 1005.00
Field check lists .....	59.93
Decals .....	16.50
Brassards .....	15.00
Copies, <i>Iowa Bird Life</i> .....	5.75
Distributional check lists .....	1.25
Grant's check lists .....	21.50
Registration fees, Sioux City .....	113.00
Registration fees, Waterloo .....	68.00
Total .....	\$ 1305.93

<b>Expenditures</b>	
Decals .....	\$ 180.00
Convention, Sioux City .....	85.48
Conference Book Service .....	10.00
<b>Iowa Bird Life</b>	
Editorial .....	\$ 100.00
Postage .....	27.72
Engraving .....	74.51
Printing .....	693.21
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$ 895.44
2000 membership cards .....	\$ 88.23
Envelopes and subscription slips .....	34.12
Postage .....	27.72
Stationary .....	6.00
Checkbooks .....	3.00
Parcel post labels .....	.16
Carrying charges .....	2.30
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$ 1332.45

Moved by Woodward H. Brown that the secretary-treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Peter C. Petersen. Motion carried.

The president presented for discussion the project of ski runs in Pilot Knob State Park. This development is said to be being pushed by residents of Mason City. Members were urgently requested to write letters of protest to Earl Jarvis, Wilton Junction, chairman of the Conservation Commission or to Everett Speaker, Director of the Iowa Conservation Commission, Des Moines, Iowa.

The president requested invitations for the 1964 fall meeting. In answer to desires to meet in the southwest part of the state, Mrs. Getscher, Hamburg, reported that the members lived in too large a territory to successfully sponsor the meeting in 1964. Question tabled.

In answer to the report by the secretary that the stock of sleeve patches, or brassards, was nearly exhausted, the assembly agreed that a new supply should be ordered. Suggestion of color changes were made.

Jack McLane moved that meeting adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Barrett. Motion carried.

The members convened for the final business session at 12:30 P.M. May 17. Dean Roosa presided. Dr. Robert F. Vane, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee read the following resolutions: Be it resolved that the members of the Ornithologists' Union express their deepest thanks to:

1. The officers of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union for their leadership in guiding the Union through another excellent year. These officers are, Dean M. Roosa, President; Myra C. Willis, Vice-president; Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Secretary-treasurer; Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Librarian; and Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Editor.

2. To the Northeast Iowa Audubon Society for inviting us to share their most interesting birding areas. Northeast Iowa Society members to be thanked particularly include:

- a. Dr. George E. Knudson, Chairman of the Arrangement Committee who made this 42nd annual convention such an outstanding convention.
- b. Darwin Koenig, Chairman of the Field Trip committee, and members of his committee who planned and led the well-organized Field Trips.

3. To Luther College whose generosity in extending the excellent facilities contributed so much to the pleasure of our group, especially the cafeteria and banquet staff of the College Union who provided exceptional dining.

4. To the Chairman of the Program Committee, Myra Willis, for her diligence in securing an excellent program.

5. To the panel of essayists and speakers who took part in our program.

a. R. W. Daubendiek of Decorah for his talk "The Sherman Swift Tower".

b. To Dr. E. D. Farwell of Decorah, president of Luther College, for his welcome.

c. Kenneth Krumm of Winona, Minnesota, for his illustrated talk "Bird Life of the Upper Mississippi Refuge".

d. Roy Schultz of Castalia for his film and talk "Alaskan Adventures".

e. Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres for their entertaining talk "Band-aids Benefit Bothered Bird Banders".

f. Shirley A. Briggs of Washington, D.C., for her illustrated talk "Visits with European Ornithologists".

6. To Mrs. Cleveland P. Grant, of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, for showing "Birdwatchers' Holiday" and to her husband in absentia, for the superlative photography.

7. To Albert C. Berkowitz for generously printing our programs.

8. To Peter C. Petersen, Jr., for the competent leadership he has shown in his capacity as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*.

9. To Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pierce for their excellent ornithology book exhibit at the convention.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Robert Vane, Chairman,  
Dorothy Brunner, John Osness.

Moved by A. C. Berkowitz that report be accepted. Seconded by Mrs. Helen Barrett. Motion carried.

The Executive Council reported that the records of the Secretary-treasurer are in order. C. C. Ayres moved that the report be accepted. Seconded by Esther Copp. Motion carried.

The discussion of the place for the fall meeting was reopened. The Ledges State Park and Bellevue State Park were considered. By show of hands the decision to meet at Bellevue State Park on the Mississippi was made. Moved by Darrell Hanna that the fall meeting be held the third weekend of September. Seconded by Forrest Millikin. Motion carried.

The necessity of showing strong opposition to the development of ski runs in Pilot Knob State Park was again discussed by Albert C. Berkowitz, Charles C. Ayres and other members. They urged members to write letters of opposition to strengthen the stand of members of the Commission who are opposed. Charles C. Ayres entreated all members of the organization to be alert to the dangers of the use of pesticides for it no longer is a question of the saving of birds, fish and animals, but a question of public health.

Albert C. Berkowitz, in the absence of Woodward H. Brown, appealed to the members of the organization to send records of their observations of birds, especially hawks, to Mr. Brown.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Albert C. Berkowitz, made the following nominations:

President, Dr. Robert Vane, Cedar Rapids  
Vice-president, Mrs. Darrel Hanna, Sioux City  
Secretary-treasurer, Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Waterloo  
Librarian, Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Mount Vernon  
Editor, Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport



## Executive Council:

Charles C. Ayres, Ottumwa  
 Fred W. Kent, Iowa City  
 Bob Nickolson, Sioux City  
 Dean Roosa, Lehigh

Moved by Albert C. Berkowitz that nominations be accepted and nominees be declared duly elected. Seconded by Helen Hawkins. Motion carried.

Convention declared adjourned by the president.

Compilation of birds seen May 17, 1964, Charles Ayres, compiler:

Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Bell's Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Birds seen May 16, 1964:

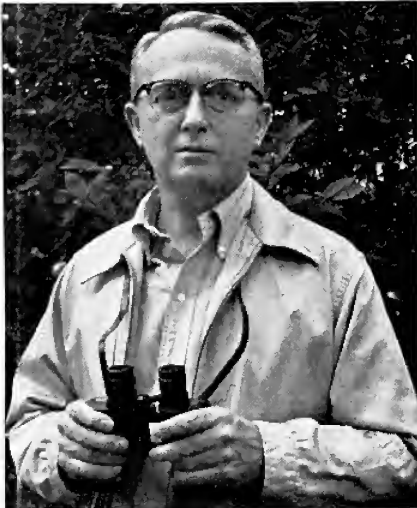
Pied-billed Grebe, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-rumped Sandpiper, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Myrtle Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler.

Attendance Register: AMES—Michael Burns; BELLEVUE—Mr. and Mrs. Myrle L. Jones; BURLINGTON—Jack McLane, Suzanne Wart; CASTALIA—Mrs. Florence Albright, Darwin Koenig, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Schultz; CEDAR FALLS—Gertrude Bode, Annette Haffner, Mrs. Charles Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke; CEDAR RAPIDS—Eleanore Fullerton, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Robert Vane, Myra Willis; DAVENPORT—Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen, Jr.; DECORAH—Vernon Bahr, Mrs. Alden Bauder, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Daubendiek, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Edwards, Mrs. Burt Henning, Mrs. G. W. Heuser, Mr. and Mrs. George Knudson, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Koenig; DES MOINES—

Albert C. Berkowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brown, Woodward H. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haskell, Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Peasley; ESTHERVILLE—Mrs. J. B. Osher; GOLDFIELD—Dean Roosa; GRINNELL—Helen Stewart, Mildred Stewart; HAMBURG—Mrs. Edwin A. Getscher; HANLONTOWN—Barton Sutter; IOWA CITY—Fred Kent; JESUP—Mrs. Ronald Barnett, Mrs. Lloyd Hewitt; MADRID—Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Partridge; MARSHALLTOWN—Dorothy Brunner, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Prescott, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart; MOULTON—Ann Louise Moore; MT. PLEASANT—George Crane; MT. VERNON—Dr. J. Harold Ennis; NEW HAMPTON—Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Oelke; NEWTON—Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Moore; NORTHWOOD—Mrs. Elsie Benjegerdes, Mrs. John Bottleman, Helen Holstad, Mrs. Fred Oetken; OTTUMWA—Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Leona L. Havens; ST. ANSGAR—Cora Wahl; SIGOURNEY—Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Millikin; SIOUX CITY—Mrs. Helen Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Davison, Robert De Loss, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kirkpatrick, Bob Nickolson; SPIRIT LAKE—Mrs. B. A. La Doux; WATERLOO—Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Helen Hawkins, Russell Hayes, Mrs. Mabelle Hinckley, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Nick, Randi and April Osness, Edith Wallace; WAVERLY—Arlo Raim; WHEATLAND—C. Esther Copp; WINTHROP—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pierce.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA—Carlos Andros; WASHINGTON, D.C.—Shirley A. Brigg; LE MOILLE, MINN.—Pauline Wershofen; WINONA, MINN.—Kenneth Krumm; LA CROSSE, WIS.—Janice M. Johnson; PLATTEVILLE, WIS.—Terrence Ingram.

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT VANE



Robert F. Vane

The new president of Iowa Ornithologists' Union is an oral surgeon practicing in Cedar Rapids. He has been interested in birds and bird photography for many years, joining the I.O.U. in 1940. He has been active in the Cedar Rapids bird club, serving as its president on two occasions, 1947-1950 and 1961-1963. He is also a member of the Cooper Ornithological society and the Wilson Ornithological society.

Dear Members;

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership of the I.O.U. for their vote of confidence in electing me president. I feel that it is an honor and a privilege, and as I mentioned at Decorah, I will do my best. With the help of the other officers and executive council I am sure we shall have an excellent year.

It is quite customary and proper for a new president to have a program for which he stands, and what better place to discuss several topics than here in this first letter.

### Importance of Iowa Bird Life

Our quarterly journal, for many of our members, is their only connection with the organization. Also, and certainly of equal importance through past years and into the future, **Iowa Bird Life** will be the recorded history of ornithology in Iowa. Thanks to our librarian and others, its issues are received and saved in the Library of Congress

and other noted libraries of our land. Let's make **I.B.L.**, then, excellent, correct in all reporting and details, and important.

To this end I urge a flow of articles to our editor by our members. How interesting to pick up a copy of **I.B.L.** 40 years hence and read what the situation ornithologically was in the past!

And so specifically I urge the writing of articles on the current status of certain Iowa birds including an examination of the literature for past records, changes in distribution as well as current records. Species that have been suggested for this research include the Carolina Wren, the Evening Grosbeak and the Woodcock to name a few.

Comparatively recent articles by William Youngworth on the Lazuli Bunting and the Arctic Towhee and articles by Woodward Brown on the Upland Plover and the Yellow-crowned Night Heron in **I.B.L.**, would surely serve as models.

The "General Notes" section will also welcome paragraphs on worth while observations, not only rarities. Do take the time to send your material to Pete Petersen.

Another specific suggestion is the urging of local Iowa bird clubs to take over an entire issue of **Iowa Bird Life** as an anniversary issue. These cooperative efforts might be patterned after the Sioux City anniversary issue of June 1944 or the Cedar Rapids Bird club issue of September 1959. In these issues the local situation ornithologically, topographically and biographically might well be covered for future ornithologists to use.

#### Insecticides and Pesticides

So that each member of the I.O.U. may be educated for intelligent, sane leadership in his own community in this period of indiscriminate poisoning, it is hoped that a packet of authoritative material or sources where this material may be obtained will be collected and made available to our membership on their request. Your president expects to appoint a committee for this purpose in the near future.

#### Need to Interest Young People

Let's lower the average age group of our organization! I well remember the Dubuque convention of 1940 when I was on a field trip led by Walter Rosene and how thrilled I was at his calling out, first by song, a Cerulean Warbler, or his flushing a Woodcock. I am told that Zell Lee of Sioux City interested Bob Nicholson as a boy. Bob now serves on the executive council and is one of our most active members. So for our coming meetings, let's take along a young person.

#### Future Meetings

At Decorah it was agreed the Fall meeting should be held at Bellevue, at the invitation of Myrle Jones. The May 1965 meeting will be held in Davenport at the invitation of the Davenport Public Museum. Details of these meetings will be sent at a later date. Plan your part on the program now.

One question comes to mind: Should the I.O.U. continue to meet at rather fixed times each year? Would, perhaps, a later Fall meeting with a program and papers be better than mid-September? Expressions from our members would be most welcome.

In conclusion, let me say that I hope to carry on the fine tradition of the I.O.U. With the help of the other officers and the council I am sure this can be done. Let us hear from you.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Vane

## BANDING AT THE CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

PETER PETERSEN, JR.

2736 E. High St.  
DAVENPORT, IOWA

Despite last year's success at Muskrat Slough the turnout of banders this year dropped greatly. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart of Marshalltown were the only banders present except for the author and his wife. The banding took place at the Coralville Reservoir north of Iowa City on May 22-24, 1964. Exact locations were just east of Highway 218 and near the mouth of Hoosier Creek. In addition to the banders Myra Willis of Cedar Rapids; John Brouhard of Iowa City; Shirley Briggs of Washington, D.C.; and a group from Davenport visited the area and observed the banding.

Compared to last years totals the banding was less successful in some respects. Effective net hours were hard to calculate as the wind rarely went down, but were about 75, with 105 birds netted. Saturday night a severe storm hit the area with winds up to 50 m.p.h., bending some net poles almost 90 degree. Fortunately this occured after dark when the nets were empty. Captured in the nets were Semipalmated Plover-2, Spotted Sandpiper-1, Pectoral Sandpiper-1, White-rumped Sandpiper-4, Least Sandpiper-1, Semipalmated Sandpiper-85, Eastern Kingbird-1, Catbird-2, Starling-1, Yellowthroat-1, Red-winged Blackbird-1, and Common Grackle-1. This totals 101 birds of 12 species. Also banded were 6 nestling Loggerhead Shrikes.

It had been the original intention to band at Muskrat Slough, but due to the high water there the previous weekend and the poor results obtained by Bob Trial the location was changed. An attempt was made to notify banders who had expressed interest in the banding of the change, but if anyone was not informed it is regretted. Bob caught no shorebirds at Muskrat Slough on May 16-17. He observed a Willet there, but no other shorebirds were present except two flocks which circled overhead and flew on without landing. Bob and John Brouhard observed many of the above mentioned species as well as Black-bellied Plovers and Baird's Sandpipers in the Hoosier Creek area on May 17. In addition to the birds banded the following were observed on May 23: Great Blue Heron rookery north of Swan Lake, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, and Orchard Oriole.

Since banding shorebirds depends upon water levels to a great extent it is felt that in the future a more informal and "spur of the moment" banding effort should be attempted. Advance notice does not aid in a good turnout and it makes a change of locality difficult. This year's effort must be considered very successful in view of the adverse weather conditions. We banded about one third of the shorebirds present in the area.

## FIELD REPORTS

The first week of March in central Iowa was abnormally warm but colder weather set in, and the remainder of the month was cold with sub-zero recorded on the 26th. The average temperature for the month was 5 degrees below normal. April was likewise colder than normal with average wind speeds the highest since 1955. May, to date, has been abnormally warm with winds of tornadic force in the first week and these may be responsible for some of the unusual spring observations: several Little Blue Herons, a species usually seen in the late summer if at all; a Purple Gallinule in the Conesville area photographed in color by Fred Kent (see separate note); a Whimbrel at Cardinal Marsh; several Goshawks; a Mountain Plover on Credit Island (see separate note); Chuck-wills-widow in Wildcat Den State Park (see separate note); a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Cedar Falls (see separate note); a male Lark Bunting in breeding plumage near Des Moines, another

near Goldfield, and two near Akron. A good case for a Yellow-throated Warbler is made by Mrs. Getscher, and another warbler appearing to be the Prairie is reported by Mrs. Hanna. In general, the migration was thought to be early with opinions regarding numbers varying from place to place.

**Loons, Grebes, Pelicans.** Two reports mentioned the Common Loon in Iowa, one at Lake Keomah on 4 May, (KL), and 26 April on the Shell Rock River, (AH), but 200 were seen at Gavin's Point Dam in South Dakota, about 70 miles west of Sioux City, (RM). A Red-necked Grebe was seen at W. Twin Lake near Goodell on 18 May, (HP). White Pelicans were seen: 12 on 10 April, (DG); 1 on 17 April, (JK); and 1 for two unspecified days, (RM).

**Cormorants, Herons.** A flock of 50 Double-crested Cormorants seen 12 April, (RH); most ever observed, (RM); 2 at Big Wall Lake 25 April, (Dick K). Great Blue and Green Herons were thought scarce, (KL); Little Blue were seen; 18 April, Amana Lake by L. Serbousek, (FK); 10 May by Mrs. Hewitt, (RH); and 17 May at Cardinal Marsh. Common Egrets were seen: 1 on 11 April, 4 on 19 April and 1 on 17 May (DH); with several scattered observations in April, (DG). Yellow-crowned Night Herons, which appear to be fairly well established as nesters are reported: 1 on 21 April in a heavy residential area, (DH); 2 each on 7 May, (RH), (FK); 1 on 9 May on the Des Moines Audubon Spring Census; 1 on 10 May at Goose Lake where several pairs usually nest, (JF). No bitterns and few herons is Kent's comment.

**Swans, Geese.** At Jefferson on 16 March, 31 Whistling Swans, (JF), and 3 spent several days near Van Meter at the end of March. On 7 March flocks of 100 each Canada, Blue and Snow, and White-fronted Geese with 15 "smaller Canadas" were seen in the Blue Lake area. William Felton found a dead Hutchin's Goose with plastic and aluminum bands in mid-May. An estimated 50,000 Blue and Snow Geese northwest of Sioux City, near Elk Point, S.D., the largest concentration in many years were seen 30 March, (DH). On the night of 6 April a reverse migration of Blue and Snow over Des Moines was noted. A pair of Canada Geese are reported nesting at Goose Lake near Jewell, (Dick K).

**Ducks.** One of the best seasons at Iowa City, due perhaps to cold later on, with first big influx on 6 March. There were 100 Canvasbacks for 10 days, but few Ruddy Ducks. On 11 April 3,000 Lesser Scaups and Shovelers. Surprising numbers of Pintails present into April, (FK). Best spring ever at Lake Keomah, (KL). Ducks plentiful and early, (JK). Blue-winged Teal migration very early, (Dick K.). Not many early Mallards and Pintails, but in late April 1,000 of all species present for two weeks, including 7 Buffleheads for 10 days, (DG). A flock of 200 Goldeneyes on the Missouri River in mid-February, and on 7 March "thousands and thousands" of ducks, mostly Mallards and Pintails in the Blue Lake area. Fewer Green-winged Teal than last year and very small numbers of Canvasbacks, Redhead, American Widgeons and Gadwalls, but Lesser Scaups and Shovelers up, (DH). Most ducks arrived at Lock & Dam 9 by 18 March, a week earlier than last year. Numerous Redheads, (DK). Not as many Pintails as in previous years but Buffleheads were the most ever seen, (RM). A good year for Mallards and Pintails, and more Goldeneyes than usual, (DR). Wood Ducks seem to be staging a good come-back: 25 at Lake Keomah on 3 April, (KL); best year ever seen, (DR); a flock of 55 on Credit Island 25 March, (PP); and occasional pairs seen around Des Moines. About 75 Common Mergansers were on the Des Moines Impounding Reservoir on 14 March, and Red-breasted came later in very good numbers.

**Vultures, Hawks.** Turkey Vultures were seen; 11 April, 5 (FK); 7 on 12 April, (RH); 2 pairs, but few and far between, (KL); and, numbers definitely up, (DR). On March a mature Goshawk chasing a pigeon flew into a Cedar Rapids window, according to Dr. Vane, (FK); one was seen 23 March,

(JF); and another at Rock-Sioux Access, north of Hawarden, (RM). The accipiter migration was thought poor, (DR). Red-tailed Hawks were normal with three nests under observation, (EB); one observation where there should be more, (RM); only 1 pair in Pleasantville area and none where they had nested for seven years, (GB); more than other years, (JK). A Krider's was observed at close range on 18 April, (EB). Hawks scarce except for 1 pair Red-tailed in Oskaloosa, (KL); Red-tailed and Red-shouldered down, (PP). Broad-wings numbering 90 went over Big Wall Lake on 25 April, (Dick K). Two favorable reports: Swainson's unusually abundant from 11 April to 15 May, alighting on the ground and approaching within 40 feet of a tractor, (DG); more Swainson's than ever seen, at least 15 from 20 April on, compared to a normal 1 to 3, (DR). Rough-legged Hawk reports are good: 3 times as many this spring as last fall with 3 melanistic in 1 square mile on 27 March, (EB); numerous around Cedar Falls, (PP). The last week in March and first week in April found Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks abundant, (DG). Buteos thought to be doing well around Goldfield, (DR); but numbers of large hawks greatly reduced, (RM). The only Golden Eagle report refers to 1 seen at Goose Lake on 11 March, (Dick K.). Bald Eagle reports were widely scattered: 20 at Gavin's Point Dam, (RM); 5 on 14 March, (FK); 2 near Pleasantville, 17 March, (GB); 1 near Decorah, 18 April, (DP); 2 immatures near Cedar Falls by Albert Berkowitz enroute to the Decorah meeting; 6 at Lock & Dam 9 on 30 March, (DK). Marsh Hawks: none seen since 5 January, (RM); and a similar situation in Polk Co. A Peregrine was sighted at Cardinal Marsh 10 May, (DK), and one was seen at Rock-Sioux Access, (RM). Sparrow Hawks: were very common earlier, (RM); but, scarce, (GB); (KL); and around Des Moines; and still down in numbers, (DK). The only reference to Red-shouldered Hawks was that of Petersen, above.

**Quails, Pheasants.** A tremendous winter survival of Gray Partridge and Ring-necked Pheasant, (EB). An increase in Gray Partridge in Wright Co., (DR). Bobwhites came through the winter well, (GB), but Pheasants and Quail fewer than a couple of years ago, (KL).

**Rails, Gallinules, Coots, Plovers.** Very few rails other than Sora, (FK); very poor shorebird year, (DR). One King Rail reported, (JK). A **Purple Gallinule** photographed on 7 May, (FK). Hundreds of American Coots at Lake Keomah 3 April and for several days, (KL); a heavy concentration earlier, (RM). A flock of 11 Semi-palmated Plover was seen on 13 May, (JK); a small flock remained in Des Moines Waterworks Park for several weeks; 20 were at Cardinal Marsh 10 May, (DK); with a few remaining on the 17th. A **Mountain Plover** was on Credit Island 25 March, and seen by Elton Fawks the next day, (PP). Killdeer reports varied greatly: definitely down, (EB); not many seen in Polk Co.; seem fewer, (GB); scarce, (DG); but, in numbers, (JK); plentiful after 12 March, (KL); and, abundant, (RM). Golden Plovers were; near Jefferson 17 May, (JF); 30 near Castalia 27 April, and 100 on 2 May, (DK); 9 on 25 April, (EB); 30 on 3 May, (RH), while several were at Cardinal Marsh in company with some Black-bellied on 17 May.

**Sandpipers, etc.** This group was thought to have had a poor migration: few shorebirds, disappointing, (EG); few except snipe and yellowlegs, (GB); a few Spotted only, (KL). A number of reports of American Woodcock: 18 March, (FK); 20 March in the yard of Dr. Peasley in Des Moines which was six weeks earlier than any previous Polk Co. record; 15 March in Oakdale Cemetery, Davenport, for three weeks with a maximum of 6 birds; a pair may be nesting in Wildcat Den State Park, (PP); 12 April (RH); and 26 April, (DR). Common Snipe: a good migration, (GB); very scarce, saw but 1, (DG). The very rare Whimbrel was seen by a number of observers at Cardinal Marsh on the Sunday field trip. Upland Plovers seem plentiful only at Cresco where 30 were seen 17 April, (DP); they failed to appear,

(JK); first arrived on 17 April, but scarce, (DG); and none seen so far in former nesting areas in Polk Co. Willet were seen at Beed's Lake, (AH); and in Des Moines 1 May. Lesser Yellow-legs were numerous: seen by the dozens, (JK); many in Goose Lake, (Dick K); and as many as 90 to 100 in Waterworks Park in Des Moines the last week in April and the first 10 days in May. Hudsonian Godwits were seen; 9 May, (JK); and 2 on 10 May, (DK). There was only one reference to the American Avocet, one was seen (no date given) (RM). There were two records of numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes: 15 on 9 May, (JK); and 24 on 10 May with 1 Northern, (DK). One concentration of shorebirds was in a field near Jefferson and was estimated to total 1,500, mostly Pectorals, but including Dunlins, Wilson's Phalaropes and Dowitchers, (JF).

**Gulls.** Franklin's Gulls were seen on three dates, (JK); there was one sighting of a small flock at the Des Moines Impounding Reservoir on 9 May; and there were 2 on the 11th and 40 on the 30th of April, (DG); but numbers were thought greatly reduced this year, (RM).

**Doves, Cuckoos.** Not as many Mourning Doves as last year, (GB); and numbers in Des Moines may be less also. Both cuckoos seem fewer in Des Moines than last year when there was heavy infestation of worms.

**Owls, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds.** A Snowy Owl was on the ice at Little Wall Lake on 14 March, (Dick K). Great Horned had a good nesting season with at least 7 successful nests near Goldfield, (DR). Short-eared were very abundant, 13 and 14 being seen at one time late in March, (DG). A Whip-poor-will was found by William Felton on 16 May, (DH); and one banded on 17 April in Oakdale Cemetery, (PP). A Chuck-wills-widow was found by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink on 9 May in Wildcat Den State Park, and heard on 19 May by Peter Petersen (see separate note). An early Ruby-throated Hummingbird was found 27 April, (DH).

**Woodpeckers.** Yellow-shafted Flickers: everywhere, with 80 to 90 seen on 11 and 12 April, (RH); in good numbers, (GB); excellent numbers, many nests, (DR). Pileateds are becoming more common and often seen on Credit Island, where they are apparently nesting, (PP). Red-headed seem numerous, (GB); and found on all back roads in Polk Co.

**Flycatchers, Swallows.** Eastern Kingbirds appeared in Polk Co. on the early date 6 April when 2 were seen; 50 were observed 9 May, (DG); and a similar number on 13 May, (DR). At Hamburg a Western Kingbird arrived on 21 April before the Eastern, (EG). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on 15 April found by Mrs. John Barlow at Cedar Falls was noteworthy. Say's Phoebe has returned to all locations checked and appears firmly established, (EB). The Eastern Phoebe is found under every bridge and most culverts, (GB). The first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher appeared 19 May and 3 were banded, (PP). "Small flycatchers" have been common, (JK), but the number of flycatchers has been small, (RM). A flock of 300 Tree Swallows was seen over a lake on 26 and 27 April, (DG), and 200 were feeding over the basins in Waterworks in Des Moines 30 March. Barn Swallows are at every farm, (GB). A flock of Cliff Swallows which were evidently nesting in a barn near McGregor were seen 19 May by Albert Berkowitz. All Purple Martin houses are filled, (GB); they arrived 23 March, (DG); but the early arrivals in Des Moines must have perished in the cold weather which ensued.

**Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens.** Black-capped Chickadees numerous but White-breasted Nuthatches greatly reduced, (RM). Bewick's Wren came on 23 March but disappeared coincidentally with the arrival of the House Wren, (GB).

**Mimics, Thrushes.** A Mockingbird at Cedar Falls was banded by Robert Paulsen on 3 May, (AH); they have returned to former nesting location, (GB); one near Akron 24 May, (EB). Catbirds and Brown Thrashers

are in good numbers, (GB). Only 4 Robins' nests where there were 15 last year, (GB), but, common, (JK); and numerous in Des Moines. There were few Hermit Thrush reports in Des Moines. Swainson's Thrushes in very reduced numbers, (RM); but have been in at least normal numbers in Des Moines with more Gray-cheeked than usual. Only 2 Eastern Bluebirds on 11 and 12 April seemed low, (RH); more plentiful with satisfactory occupancy of boxes, (KL). Thrushes in general are down with no Hermit, Veery or Bluebird, (RM).

**Kinglets, Pipits.** A good migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, (GB); a small wave in mid-April, (JK). Water Pipits were widely reported; 15 March 30 at Goose Lake, (JF); 15 or 20 on the same date at Brenton's Slough; 22 March by Mrs. Osness, (RH); 25 April at Beed's Lake, (AH); 2 at Goose Lake 10 May, (DP); and from 3 to 20 in a plowed field from 9 April to 9 May (DG). A Sprague's Pipit was observed (no date) (RM).

**Waxwings, Shrikes.** On 28 March 6 Bohemian Waxwings were seen, (RH); while at Gavin's Point Dam there were 100 with 200 Cedar Waxwings, (RM). There are a number of Loggerhead Shrike nests, (GB); only 1 observation on 26 April, (KL); and very scarce in Des Moines.

**Vireos, Warblers.** Some comments on this group: warblers generally good, (GB); big wave 2 May with good variety everywhere, another smaller 7 May, (FK); pretty good concentration on 7 May, but in general considered poor migration, (DK); a wave 5 and 6 May with Tennessee, Nashville, Black-and-white, and Northern Waterthrush, but banded only half as many of all warblers as last year in Oakdale Cemetery, (PP); very poor warbler migration, early wave of Palm and Myrtle, then practically nothing, (DR). A normal flight of vireos and warblers, (EB). A White-eyed Vireo was seen on 2 May, (DR). A Black-and-white seen on 15 April was two weeks early. Lawrence's Warblers were seen on 2 May by Mr. and Mrs. Milliken and by Dean Roosa in their respective areas. Tennessees were thought to be in reduced numbers, (RM). Orange-crowned were described as a good flight, (EB). An unusual number of Parulas were seen, one which arrived on 22 April was two weeks early and was seen in Mrs. Margaret Brooke's yard for a week or more; one on 28 April and 3 on 7 May, (RH); another 3 May at Oskaloosa, (KL). Yellow Warblers were seen in large numbers from 25 April on, (EG); but, few seen, (KL); and, in reduced numbers, (RM). Cape Mays were thought more numerous than usual at Waterloo, (RH), and were also seen at other points. This was a good Myrtle year; a wave 22 April, (EG); and 30 April in Des Moines; good migration, (GB); plentiful everywhere, (KL); and, the only abundant warbler but seen for only a week, (RM). A Pine Warbler was seen 7 May, (FK). There was a wave of Palm 2 May, (MJ); 30 April with the Myrtles at Des Moines; and abundant during April, (Dick K). A Yellow-breasted Chat on 7 May was early, (RH). A Connecticut was banded 22 May (PP). Northern Waterthrushes were considered common in April, (Dick K).

**Blackbirds.** Bobolinks: most ever seen, (EB); plentiful in Des Moines, and many seen en route to Decorah and McGregor; good numbers, (JK); more than usual, (DR); but, small numbers from 1 to 20 May, (DG). Eastern Meadowlarks are moving into the Goldfield area formerly occupied by the Western, (DR). Yellow-headed Blackbirds: quite a few, (DH); 10 seen 20 April and 6 females 10 May, (DG); 30 near Readlyn on 17 May were surprising, (RH); best year yet in Wright Co., especially Morse Lake near Belmond, (DR). Redwinged Blackbirds seem everywhere; large flights seen 22 March, (DH). Orchard Orioles, more than in the previous six years combined, (RM). Rusty Blackbirds: good numbers around, (FK). Brewer's; seen on several occasions, (JK); had 6 following the plow on 14 April, (DG). Seven Common Grackles on 1 February were very early, (GB).



**Sparrows, Finches.** An Evening Grosbeak was in Des Moines from 10 to 15 April, (HP). This was evidently a migrant and not a winter resident as was the case with the flock which was fed by Dr. Vane into April. There must be more Dickcissels than usual; too many from 16 May on, (KL); a dime a dozen, (RM). Common Redpolls were in the Waterloo area; seen 27 March, Mrs. Holliday, 2 on 1 April, Mrs. Hewitt at Jesup, 2 on 3 April, Nick Osness, (RH). Red Crossbill was seen 5 April, (RH), and the last of those wintering in Ames was seen 7 May, (DP). Rufous-sided Towhees are again scarce around Des Moines. Another coincidence was the finding of the rare Lark Bunting on 24 May by Dean Roosa at Goldfield, and by Elizabeth Peck at Granger, not far from Des Moines. There was a good flight of Savannah Sparrows, (EB). Grasshopper Sparrows at Goldfield on 11 April were early, (DR). These are back to normal after a scarcity three years ago, (EB). Le Conte's Sparrows were seen by Robert Nickolson on 12 April, (DH), and 31 March, (KL). On 13 May 3 Henslow's were seen in good light, (JF); one banded at Goose Lake near Cedar Falls 31 May, (PP). Vesper, down considerably, (RM); but around Des Moines in at least usual numbers. Chipping, most ever seen, (EB). Clay-colored were observed 2 May, (FK), 8 May, (DP) and 3 May, (RH). White-crowned: some increase, (EB); up, (DK); good migration, (DR). White-throated: good flight as usual, a partial albino 21 April with only yellow on cheek to distinguish it from the Snow Bunting, (EB); 150 going through my yard, and 500 seen all day, (FK); very good migration in April and May, (Dick K); but, thought down in numbers, (DK). Lapland Longspurs: 200 on 16 February, (FK); 100 on 3 March, and again 15 March but no big flocks, (DG); 21 March near Ames, (DP). On 3 May a definite identification of a Smith's Longspur although not in breeding plumage, (FK). At Jefferson airport on 21 March, nearly 100 Snow Buntings, (JF).

Contributors: Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Eldon Bryant, Akron; John Faaborg, Jefferson; Mrs. Edward Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Annette Haffner, Cedar Falls; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Myrle Jones, Bellevue; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Dick Knight, Ames; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Keith Layton, Oskaloosa; Ron Muilenburg, Hawarden; Mrs. Harold Peasley, Des Moines; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Don Peterson, Ames; Dean Roosa, Goldfield  
WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Mountain Plover at Davenport**—At noon on March 25, 1964, a Mountain Plover in full breeding plumage was observed at Credit Island, Davenport. The bird was seen in the company of several Killdeer on the mudflat of the harbor area. Light conditions were favorable and it was observed through 12X binoculars from a car at a distance of about 100 feet. The clear breast and white area on the forehead and over the eye were noted. On the next day the bird was seen in flight with Killdeer by Elton Fawks. The faint wing stripe was noted by him. Strong southwesterly winds of March 24 could have blown this bird into this area. This appears to be the first record of this bird in Iowa, and it is regrettable that this bird could not have been captured and photographed. A sleet storm the afternoon and evening of March 25 made an attempt at mist netting impossible.—PETER PETERSEN, JR., 2736 E. High St., Davenport.

**Chuck-will's-widow at Wildcat Den State Park**—On May 9, 1964, the Chuck-will's-widow was heard and seen at Wildcat Den State Park by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink of East Moline, Illinois. They had heard this bird in the south, but were surprised to find it this far north. The author, accompanied by his wife, Larry Dau and Urban Stratman visited the area

with the Frinks on May 19, 1964. All observers heard the bird and Dau, Frink and the author saw the bird from about 30 feet using flashlights. Having heard the bird in New Jersey as well as having many Whip-poor-wills about for comparison there can be no mistake as to the identity. On May 31, 1964, the Frinks observed two birds and noted the white throat. Perhaps a bird can be captured later this summer. We also heard and saw Woodcocks in the area where they are presumably nesting.—PETER PETERSEN, JR., 2736 E. High St., Davenport.



PURPLE GALLINULE

Photo by F. W. Kent

**A Purple Gallinule in Iowa**—On May 7 Tom Kent, John Brouhard and I made a morning trip some 20 miles south of Iowa City to an area which includes the Conesville Marsh and some oxbows of the Iowa River. In the first of the oxbows we had a very fine view of a pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons, the male in very fine plumage, and at the next one as we crossed a causeway to get into some fine warbler territory Tom spotted a bird in the water at some distance and said it looked like a gallinule (common). I picked it up with my binoculars briefly as it went behind some brush and quickly, and perhaps a bit jokingly said it was a Purple Gallinule. Afterwards I realized that I had seen the red bill but no white on the sides. So Tom went off through the poison ivy and brush and soon called back that I was right. So I went back to the car for my photographic equipment and began taking pictures as soon as in range in case it should take off, but it was quite unconcerned and we got close enough for some full size color shots (with telescope combination), having more trouble shooting through the branches of the brush in which it had perched (see picture). So we all had a fine view of the bird, noticing its agility in climbing in the brush, the white patch on the forehead with bit of blue color, the red-orange bill with yellow tip, and the rich purple of neck and shoulders. The next day John took a friend back and found it in the same area.

DuMont puts it his hypothetical list and questions the early Allen record. Martin Grant's most recent list of Iowa birds does not include it. In recent issue of the *Auk*, 81-2, two nesting records are given, one in central Ohio and the other in southern Illinois as new northern limits for breeding.

Bent cites many scattered records of singles mostly in eastern U.S., even into Ontario. F. W. KENT, 302 Richards St., Iowa City.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Cedar Falls**—On April 15, 1964, Bob Berry and Forrest Benton of the Benton Concrete Products Co., Cedar Falls, noticed a bird with an extremely long tail in the trees in Island Park across the road from their office. They looked in Peterson's **Field Guide** and decided it looked like a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. It stayed around and finally on the third day, April 17, they decided they ought to tell somebody about it. The call got through to me, and I went up to see the bird and found that it really was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Calls went out and many bird watchers from Cedar Falls and Waterloo observed the bird, including Mr. and Mrs. John Barlow, Mrs. L. W. Bireline, Mrs. George Wood, Gertrude Bode and Verna Davis of Cedar Falls; also Dr. C. W. Robertson, George O. Faulkner, Russell Hays, Helen Hawkins, Pearl Rader and Virginia McDonald, of Waterloo.

The bird was still there at 5:30 that evening. There was a decided drop in temperature that night and next morning it was not around and has not been seen since. Heavy winds earlier in the week may have blown the bird off its course. —MRS. JOHN M. BARLOW, 4304 Hillside Drive, Cedar Falls.

**February 15 or 16, 1964, Bald Eagle Count**—Mississippi River bordering Illinois and interior of state. Locations double checked to avoid duplication.

		Adults	Immature	Not Aged	Total
2/16	Dubuque, Iowa .....	2	0	0	2
2/16	Lock 12 thru 16 .....	98	24	4	126
2/16	Lock 17 .....	19	0	0	19
2/16	Lock to Putney Chute .....	57	5	0	62
2/16	Lock 18 .....	7	1	0	8
2/17	Lock 19 .....	5	1	0	6
2/17	Lock 20 .....	8	0	0	8
2/16	Lock 21 .....	0	0	0	0
2/16	15 mile N. Quincy .....	8	0	0	8
2/16	Pool 21 .....	0	0	67	67
2/16	Lock 22 .....	1	0	0	1
2/16	Pool 25 .....	0	0	6	6
2/16	Pool 26 .....	0	0	49	49
2/15	New Canton .....	3	9	0	12
2/21	Elsah .....	4	13	0	17
2/16	St. Louis .....	4	0	4	8
2/16	Alton Dam Area .....	10	4	0	14
2/16	Crab Orchard .....	0	1	0	1
2/16	Rock River all .....	0	0	0	0
	Illinois totals .....	226	58	130	414
	Percentage .....	79.56%	20.42%		
Mississippi River from source to Illinois.					
2/16	Lock 2 .....	1	0	0	1
2/16	Locks 7 & 8 .....	1	0	0	1
2/16	Pool 4, 5, 5A, 6 .....	27	3	0	30
2/16	Pool 9 .....	15	1	0	16
2/15/16	Pool 10 .....	7	6	0	13
2/15	Pool 11 .....	15	3	0	18
2/16	Conover, Wisc. ....	2	0	0	2
	Above Illinois totals .....	68	13	0	81
	Percentage .....	84%	16%		
	Grand totals .....	294	71	130	485
	Total percentage .....	80%	20%		

ELTON FAWKS R.R. #1, Box 112, East Moline, Illinois

**Arrival Dates Summer Residents of Wapello County.**—Based on 13 years of records starting 1951 with daily excursions made.

March 9	Robin	29	White-throated Sparrow
12	Meadowlark	29	Brown-headed Cowbird
13	Grackle	30	Lark Sparrow
13	Brewer's Blackbird	30	Barn Swallow
13	Red-winged Blackbird	30	Warbling Vireo
15	Eastern Bluebird	May 1	Baltimore Oriole
16	Killdeer	2	Upland Plover
16	Mourning Dove	3	Catbird
22	Red-headed Woodpecker	4	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
30	Song Sparrow	4	Yellowthroat
April 5	Belted Kingfisher	4	Grasshopper Sparrow
6	Turkey Vulture	6	Dickcissel
12	Chipping Sparrow	6	Whip-poor-will
13	Purple Martin	8	Indigo Bunting
15	Rufous-sided Towhee	9	Yellow Warbler
15	Ruby crowned Kinglet	9	Common Nighthawk
16	Field Sparrow	10	Red-eyed Vireo
17	Eastern Phoebe	14	Vesper Sparrow
20	Mockingbird	15	Scarlet Tanager
22	House Wren	16	Wood Pewee
26	Myrtle Warbler	17	Ruby-throated Hum bird
27	Brown Thrasher	22	Chimney Swift
29	Eastern Kingbird	29	Yellow-billed Cuckoo

MRS. ORVILLE T. UPP, 608 Wildwood Drive, Ottumwa.

**Western Kingbird and Mockingbird in Wright County.**—While looking for Red-tailed Hawk nests on April 25, I saw a Mockingbird 5 miles north of Goldfield. I watched it for 15 minutes in good light. This was an interesting record because it was about a mile from where I saw a Mockingbird on October 24, 1963. These are my first records of the Mockingbird in Wright County. On May 13, I saw a Western Kingbird 3 miles north of Goldfield. It sat for several minutes on a fence wire about 15 feet from my car, allowing good observation. This came after several days of strong winds. This was my first record of the Western Kingbird in Wright County.—DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.

**White-eyed Vireo and Lawrence's Warbler in Wright County.**—On May 2nd, I was observing a small wave of warblers in a quiet valley north of Goldfield. After watching a small warbler in a gooseberry thicket for some time, I decided it was a Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers). While I had my glasses focused on the warbler, I heard the distinctive song of the White-eyed Vireo. I soon located this bird in the top of an elm, adding two birds to my life list and to my records for Wright County within two minutes of each other.—DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.

**Lark Bunting in Wright County.**—On May 24, while driving on a gravel road a mile north of Goldfield, I casually glanced at a dark bird sitting on a fence and dismissed it as a Bobolink. A few seconds later I realized my mistake, stopped, backed the car and discovered a beautiful male Lark Bunting. I observed it in good light and listened to its song for 15 minutes, when it flew. The previous night we had very strong winds from the west and probably owe the visit of this beautiful bird to these winds.—DEAN M. ROOSA, Goldfield.

**Beauty Personified.**—The low call of a night bird is often beautiful to those ears that are tuned to it and the sight of a wild bird in even some simple activity is often as not just as beautiful to those in harmony with na-

ture. Such was the case once on a bright, but bitter cold January day. A Cardinal was flying in for his food. The climbing honeysuckle on the porch was partially covered with bright orange-red berries, but the fruit was all out on the ends of tiny twigs. This Cardinal decided it was much easier to fly for his food than to perch for it. The ensuing flights were one of the most beautiful things I have ever witnessed. The blur of crimson wings against the white of the snow and the green of the background arbor vitae was something truly from the Creator's hand. Time and again this dashing bird held himself suspended in mid-air as he plucked berry after berry from the vine. The only other observer was none other than a female Cardinal, lovely in her own right, in shades of olive-brown and washed gently with a delicate shade of vermilion-red on the crest, wings, tail and other areas. We two, the bird and I, watched for several minutes as the above action was carried on, when suddenly the male gave a loud chip and both birds flew off to feed elsewhere.—WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, 3119 Second St., Sioux City.

**January 18, 1964, in the Field.**—The valleys of the Little Sioux and Maple rivers were calling, so on the above morning we drove southward. The sun was bright and the predicted temperature could be felt through the wind shield as we drove. Small flocks of Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs lifted from the roadside and an occasional meadowlark flitted across the highway. Just east of Onawa a large flock of at least fifty meadowlarks were seen feeding in a stubble field.

Our immediate destination was the Castana Cemetery and the cedar clad hills in that vicinity. As we stepped from the car we saw Cedar Waxwings everywhere. We started to glass the red cedar trees and soon discerned the larger, grayer forms of the Bohemian Waxwings. Robins were liberally mixed in with the waxwings and we were even able to pick out two Purple Finches among the hundreds of waxwings. We worked the cemetery carefully and then ate our lunch and worked it again with some very definite conclusions. We had seen at least a thousand Cedar Waxwings and probably from two hundred to five hundred Bohemian Waxwings. The Robins numbered in the dozens. Heavy stands of red cedars are also both north and south of the cemetery and there was a constant trading back and forth of flocks of all three species. A good guess would be that there are several thousand waxwings wintering in this area along the Maple River.

On December 6, 1963, the Mapleton Cemetery was alive with birds of the following species: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco, Yellow-bellied sapsucker, Harris and White-throated sparrow. It was only natural then that we would go there on this trip, but what a vast difference we found. A pair of Great Horned Owls had moved in and bird life was absolutely absent except for one accipiter. All we saw of this latter bird was a flash of short rounded wings and it was gone. The cemetery was void of bird life or sound and not even a single chickadee called to break the silence. I even walked over the area twice to make sure I was wrong, but didn't find a single bird. I noticed frequent scattered feathers and the ground under the roosting trees was not bare of the huge regurgitated pellets of the Great Horned Owl. It is quite apparent that sometimes even with plentiful food, predators will scare birds from a given area.

The trip home was enlivened by numerous Red-tailed Hawks and Sparrow Hawks. Other birds seen were Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawks, and a few Tree Sparrows.—WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, 3119 Second Street, Sioux City.

**The Beginning of the End**—This past fall I faithfully shocked the zinnia stocks and placed them in a protected place for the finches. I already had

a sack of zinnia seed drying in the cellar for future use and hoped for a few winter bird visitors. Continued bedlam is the word from our neighborhood, because we live just two blocks from a large public school. Closer to home we are surrounded by healthy children, numerous free-running dogs and this winter even a small pony named Midget. Finally on a cold day the first little flock of Goldfinches alighted on the zinnia shock, but timing could not have been more perfect, for almost immediately a dozen or more screaming children accompanied by several barking dogs and Midget made their appearance. The children wanted to ride the pony and the pony would buck and the uproar was simply too much for the frightened Goldfinches and they flew off never to return. Later after a snow storm I spread the curing zinnia seeds in a sheltered spot and found that the flock of Harris' Sparrows enjoyed them the most. On rare occasions a pair of Cardinals would stop and eat a few of the seeds, but the other birds weren't interested in zinnia seeds.

The little episode above illustrates what is happening to bird study around the average urban home. Writers for one hundred years have been noting the gradual decrease in bird life in the cities and recently have been pointing out that it is nearly as bad in the neat new suburbs. One interesting little paperbacked book, **Attracting Birds to your Backyard**, W. J. Beecher, 1955, gives a good account of the receding wild bird life in Chicago, Illinois. One species after another leaves the city and even suburban yards because of noise, lack of cover and other reasons. Soon only the Starling and the House Sparrow remain in your city backyard.

The truth is that the Yellow Warbler and even the various vireos have long since departed most urban backyards for more desirable areas. The Orchard Oriole will persist for a few years and then not return. The Baltimore Oriole and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak are rapidly deserting most city areas. Because many people put up wren houses, the House Wren is one of the last of the native birds to leave a city backyard. The Starling and the House Sparrow make life so miserable for the Purple Martin that the average home-owner feels it is a losing battle and takes down his martin house forever. It is truly the beginning of the end for bird study in the average city backyard, so kind birdwatchers cherish to the limit those few birds hardy enough to nest on your premises. Put it down as a day among many when you see a gently, shy Fox Sparrow feeding around the edges of your garden. This writer hasn't seen a Fox Sparrow on his home grounds now for more than seven years and doubts if he ever will again. It is rapidly becoming a question to the city bird student of not when will I see some rare bird in my backyard, but will I ever see one there again.—WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, 3119 Second St., Sioux City.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Mourning Dove in Illinois**—Harold C. Hanson and Charles W. Kosack-133 p., many photographs, maps, charts and tables-Illinois Department of Conservation Technical Bulletin Number 2, Springfield, Illinois—1963—paper-bound—free.

This well written work covers all phases of the life history of the Mourning Dove in a state where it is a game bird. The authors discuss the usual aspects of life history covering distribution, migration, nesting, sex ratios, behavior, growth and development, propagation, food habits, natural mortality factors, hunting, and population trends. Of interest to banders is a series of photographs showing growth stages and wings of immature birds.

Concerning the hunting of doves the authors take no sides. They do point out that all recent data indicate that the Illinois dove population is not

declining. Those wishing a good background on the periodically suggested possibility of a hunting season on doves in Iowa will find this book an excellent source. ed.

**Biology of Birds**—Wesley E. Lanyon—American Museum Science Books, The Natural History Press, Garden City, New York—186 p., 64 line drawings—paperbound—1963—\$1.25.

This well done introduction to birds would make a fine book for a high school or college student with a budding interest in ornithology. Dr. Lanyon, who will be remembered for his excellent work on the meadowlarks, covers his subject thoroughly for a general presentation. It lacks the color illustrations of Peterson's recent **The Birds**, but the price will appeal to the student. The readability is enhanced by many examples, often drawn from the author's own research. Chapter headings cover origin and evolution, design for flight, variations on a general theme, migration and navigation, distribution and environment, courtship and reproduction, and growth and survival. References are given by chapter, easily enabling those with access to a good library to read further in areas of interest. ed.

**Social Behavior and Organization Among Vertebrates**—William Etkin, editor—University of Chicago Press, Chicago—307 p., plus 88 illustrations—1964—\$7.50.

A textbook type of work, bringing together the knowledge of many authorities. The best known names to ornithologists are David E. Davies and Niko Tinbergen. The book deals specifically with the following topics: Co-operation and Competition in Social Behavior, Neuroendocrine Correlation in Vertebrates, The Physiological Analysis of Aggressive Behavior, Reproductive Behaviors, Biological Bases for Reproductive Behaviors, Control of Behavior, Cycles in Reproduction, Theories of Animal Socialization and Communication, The Evolution of Signaling Devices, The Effects of Early Experience on Social Behavior and Organization, and Types of Social Organization in Birds and Mammals. Many readers would find this book too scientific for their interest and background, but anyone who is even a semi-serious student of bird behavior will want to read it. Many "loose ends" of behavior are drawn together here. ed.

## NOTES AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Due to the coming departure of Dr. Weller nest record cards should be obtained from the editor. A good example of the valuable work that can be done along this line is the project of **Stephen Patterson** of Perry. He studied 101 nests and wrote a paper on his work for the U.S. Army Science Symposium at Iowa City. As a result he received a free trip to the National Science Symposium in Washington. Stephen is a junior member and sets a good example. **Dr. Martin Grant** will remain in Iran for another year. The editor's wife, **Mary Lou Petersen**, will attend Carleton College on a National Science Foundation Grant this summer. The editor and his wife were the only Iowans at the recent convention of the Wilson Ornithological Society, held May 1-3 at Kalamazoo, Michigan. It is regrettable that others did not take advantage of the nearness of such an outstanding meeting. Of particular interest was the symposium chairmaned by **Dr. O. S. Pettingill**, an I.O.U. member, on hawk migration around the Great Lakes. Don't overlook the 1965 meeting June 17-20 at Sylvan Lake in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Anyone not familiar with this society should contact the editor.

## CONTENTS

ANNUAL CONVENTION .....	33-42
PRESIDENT VANE'S LETTER .....	42-43
BANDING AT CORALVILLE RESERVOIR .....	44
FIELD REPORTS .....	44-49
GENERAL NOTES .....	49-54
BOOK REVIEWS .....	54-55
NOTES AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS .....	55

---

### OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

President—Dr. Robert Vane, 2220 Grande Ave., S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
 Vice-President—Mrs. Darrell Hanna, 1026 S. Alice, Sioux City, Iowa  
 Sec'y.-Treas.—Dr. Myrle M. Burk, Route 2, Waterloo, Iowa  
 Librarian—Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa  
 Editor—Peter C. Petersen Jr., 2736 E. High Street, Davenport, Iowa

#### Executive Council:

Fred W. Kent, Iowa City, Iowa  
 Robert L. Nickolson, Sioux City, Iowa  
 Charles Ayres, Ottumwa, Iowa  
 Dean Roosa, Lehigh

---

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publications of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; "The Bulletin," 1929-1930; "Iowa Bird Life," beginning 1931.

---

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:** \$3.00 a year. Single copies 75¢ each except where supply is limited to five or fewer copies, \$1.00. Subscriptions to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are four classes, as follows: Contributing Member, \$10.00 a year; Supporting Member, \$5.00 a year; Regular Member, \$3.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$1.00 a year.

---

**EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE**  
 2736 E. HIGH STREET  
 DAVENPORT, IOWA